

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 01481 270708Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 HEW-06 COME-00 EB-08 EPA-04
AID-05 /045 W
-----048598 280426Z /65
R 270044Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7841

UNCLAS MEXICO 01481

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, EPAP, US, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICAN INTEREST IN CLOSER COOPERATION
WITH FDA

REF: (A) MEXICO 1434; (B) SPIELMAN-WILCOX LTR OF
9/1/77; (C) WILCOX-SPIELMAN LTR OF 10/4/77.

1. DEPT WILL RECALL (E.G. REF B) THAT SUBJECT OF FURTHER
INTERCHANGE BETWEEN FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) AND
MEXICAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT UNDERSECRETARIAT (SMA)
WAS DISCUSSED AT BORDER ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH SUBGROUP
MEETING OF SOCIAL WORKING GROUP HELD HERE LAST AUGUST.

2. SMA CONTINUES TO PRESS US ON THIS. IT NOW APPEARS
CLEAR (AT LEAST TO US) THAT THIS CANNOT REASONABLY BE
EXPECTED TO BE HANDLED AS A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MATTER,
EITHER REIMBURSABLE OR OTHERWISE (SEE REFTEL (A)). WHAT
SMA WOULD LIKE IS A CHANCE TO MEET WITH FDA ADMINISTRATOR
KENNEDY OR OTHER HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL (PARTICULARLY SOME-
ONE IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS) TO EXPLORE WAYS
TO STRENGTHEN FDA-SMA UNDERSTANDING.

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3. AS REPORTED REF (B), WE BELIEVE SMA'S INTEREST IS TO
GAIN FURTHER UNDERSTANDING OF FDA RULES AND PRACTICES SO
THAT IT MAY BETTER ASSURE THAT MEXICAN FOODS EXPORTED TO
U.S. ARE SATISFACTORY FROM STANDPOINT OF PESTICIDE
RESIDUES AND OTHA
CONTAMINANTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEA-FOODS ARE ONE OF THE PRODUCTS
OF MAJOR INTEREST.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT FDA POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCH COOPERATION, OTHER THAN ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS, ARE NOT GREAT. IN SPIRIT OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM, HOWEVER, IT URGES DEPT TO SEE IF FDA MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SEND APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL(S) TO MEXICO CITY TO MEET WITH SMA AND TRY TO DEVELOP IMPROVED MECHANISM FOR INFO EXCHANGE AND CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
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